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INSPECTION & WEIGHING  
**UPDATE**

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Federal Grain Inspection Service  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

PROCUREMENT SECTION  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

June 1, 1979

MEETINGS BEING HELD  
TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS

Informal meetings to discuss proposed regulations for the inspection and weighing of grain are being held at specific requests from public groups. A meeting held April 13 at Saginaw, Mich., on request from Congressman Mike Traxler drew about 100 persons as well as media groups. FGIS officials also discussed the proposed regulations at a regional meeting of the Grain Elevator Processors Society in Kansas City, Mo., May 2. A similar meeting is scheduled at Denver, Colo., June 4-8, with the National Association of Chief Grain Inspectors. Deadline for submitting comments is June 18.

84 COMMENTS ARE  
RECEIVED ON DHV

There were 84 comments received on a FGIS proposal to eliminate testing for dark, hard and vitreous (DHV) kernels in hard red winter wheat. Only 12 comments opposed the change, including four foreign countries, the U.S.S.R., Belgium, Brazil, and the Phillipines. FGIS believes that protein content is a more reliable indicator of baking quality in wheat than DHV percentages. Testing for protein in hard red winter and hard red spring wheats has been provided since May 1978.

NO OFFICIAL AGENCY PLANNED  
AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.

Due to a lack of requests for official services other than inspection and weighing of export grain at export port locations, there are no plans to designate an official agency for the inspection of grain at Corpus Christi, Tex. No response was received to a notice in the Jan. 31 Federal Register, asking for public comments as to the need for an official agency in that area. The designation of the Corpus Christi Grain Exchange, former official agency at that location, ended on Nov. 19, 1978, after the firm failed to submit a proposal to correct an apparent conflict of interest in its management structure. Official inspection and weighing services for export grain at export port locations in the area are provided by the Federal Grain Inspection Service, as required under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. However, qualified private agencies may be designated to provide official services at inland locations.

RICE AND COMMODITIES  
BRANCH GETS NEW CHIEF

Edith A. Christensen, a 35-year veteran in grain and commodity inspection, has been named chief of the Rice and Commodities Branch, Inspection Division. She succeeds Kenneth Bourgeois, who moved to the Field Program Operations staff. A chemist by training, Ms. Christensen began her career at the USDA Testing Laboratory at Beltsville, Md. She served as supervisory chemist at the Beltsville lab during the 1960's. In August 1977, she was chosen to head the Delegation and Designation Branch of the Compliance Division. She directed the delegation of authority to nine eligible states for inspection and weighing of grain at export port locations. She also directed the designation of official inspection authority to 86 private and state agencies operating at inland locations. In her new position, Ms. Christensen will be responsible for the inspection of all rice, pulses, and processed grain products under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

RICE SPECIALIST MOVES TO ATLANTA Delbert Davis, a rice specialist, has been chosen for a position as agricultural marketing specialist at the Atlanta Regional Office. A 30-year career federal employee, Davis has spent his entire professional career with FGIS and its predecessor, the AMS Grain Division. In March 1973, he was promoted to the Board of Appeals and Review as a rice specialist. Since October 1977, he has served as head of the Inspection Division's Rice Inspection Section.

CHANGES PROPOSED IN U.S. STANDARDS FOR BEANS AND RICE Changes have been proposed in the U.S. standards for brown rice for processing and milled rice, and for beans. The changes are to promote more uniformity in applying the standards. The proposed change in rice standards would specify the amount of hull which must adhere to rice kernels before they are considered "paddy kernels." The proposed change in bean standards would delete the words "cowpeas other than the blackeye type" from the definition of foreign material. Officials said non-blackeye cowpeas should not be singled out as foreign material since they are edible and fit the definition of beans. The proposals were published in the May 17 Federal Register. USDA will receive comments until July 16.

FGIS TO ASSUME GRAIN INSPECTION IN FLORIDA JULY 1 FGIS will begin inspecting and weighing export grain in Florida on July 1, following notice that Florida wants to cancel its delegation and designation to perform official services within the state. FGIS will also be prepared to provide official services on an interim basis for grain marketed domestically within the state. FGIS will provide service from its field office at Mobile, Ala. Florida was one of nine states delegated authority in 1978 to inspect and weigh export grain at export port locations.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXTENDED ONE YEAR The Grain Advisory Committee is being extended until Mar. 29, 1980, to advise FGIS on implementing changes made by Congress in the U.S. Grain Standards Act. It will report to Secretary Bob Bergland. The committee served earlier for 18 months at the direction of Congress. Members will be announced later.

PRODUCERS ALERTED ON WHEAT VARIETY Grain producers in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota have been alerted about possible problems with a new wheat variety, which is now being marketed as Variety B-1. Officials said the seed is being marketed in a Hard Red Spring (HRS) production area. However, the FGIS Board of Appeals and Review has classified the variety as Soft Red Winter (SRW) wheat. It has a very soft textured appearance, a soft endosperm and rough bran coat similar to known varieties of SRW wheat. Problems could develop if producers attempt to market the wheat as HRS. FGIS said all official grain inspectors in the area have been instructed to grade the variety as SRW wheat if it appears in the market. It is not known how much of the seed has been planted.

19 EXEMPTIONS GRANTED UNDER 15,000 TON RULE A total of 19 exemptions of inspection and/or weighing services has been granted to 14 shippers that export less than 15,000 metric tons of grain from a single handling facility during a calendar year. Exemptions are now being granted on an interim basis. Provisions for such exemption are among proposed regulations that are being considered.

DIRECTOR OF WEIGHING  
RECEIVES RECOGNITION

George T. Lipscomb, weighing director for FGIS, has received a Certificate of Merit and cash award for his work in developing a national weighing system for grain. The departmental award noted that Lipscomb's flexibility and diplomacy in dealing with the grain industry elevated his efforts to a very high level of performance. Lipscomb was responsible for developing the initial national policy and program to implement official weighing and supervision of weighing under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

18 EVACUATIONS  
DURING APRIL

FGIS employees evacuated elevators 18 times during April under conditions judged to be hazardous. Nine of the evacuations -- including seven from the same elevator -- were due to high humidity with inadequate dust control. The longest down time was one day. The shortest was 10 minutes. Three evacuations were due to strong winds, resulting in a loss of electrical power. There was one bomb threat, causing down time of one hour, one fire with down time of two hours, a smoking leg bearing with down time of 10 minutes, and smoke from a piece of wood lodged between a tail pulley and belt with a 20-minute down time. The FGIS Hazard Alert report also listed the destruction by fire of Farmers Co-op Elevator, Blaisdell, N.D. No injuries were reported.

COMMENTS ASKED  
ON FEE SCHEDULE

Public comment is being asked on whether federal fees for original grain inspection services should be based on a hourly or on a unit basis. FGIS now charges \$2.50 per 1,000 bushels for performing original inspections in barges, bins and ships. It charges \$6.50 per truck, \$10 per boxcar, and \$13.50 per hopper car. FGIS asked for comments on the two methods after learning that some segments of the grain industry feel the present fees for barges, bins and ships are unfair to elevators which handle large volumes of grain per hour. Under an hourly method, a standard fee would be charged per hour for each authorized FGIS employee used on an in-line inspection job. On-line inspection means that the sample of grain for inspection is obtained by a mechanical sampler. The hourly method would reflect FGIS costs and use of FGIS inspection services on a nationwide basis. It would be similar to the hourly fee method now used for official weighing services by FGIS. Under the hourly method, an elevator could elect to contract for inspection services under certain conditions and receive a reduced rate. Fees for inspecting grain in trucks, rail cars and barges, when not performed as an on-line inspection job, would be on a per-carrier basis under the hourly method. Public comment is also being asked on whether travel costs to provide inspection services should be based on mileage or on an apportionment method. FGIS travel costs are now apportioned nationwide and are included as a part of inspection fees. Under the mileage method, a standard rate per mile would be charged for services performed outside a 25-mile radius of the FGIS field office. This would be added to the inspection fee. The request for comments was published in the May 31 Federal Register. Those wishing to comment have until July 30 to send two written copies of their views to John W. Marshall, Director, Inspection Division, Room 0624-S., Federal Grain Inspection Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. All comments received will be available for public inspection.

